PREPARING FOR YOUR CHILD’S IV SEDATION VISIT

We have recommended IV Sedation for your child’s safety and comfort during dental procedures. Sedation can help increase cooperation and reduce anxiety and/or discomfort associated with dental treatment. Various medications can be used to sedate a child. We have two Board certified Anesthesiologists that come to our office to administer the IV medications to your child.

You, as a parent/legal guardian, play a key role in your child’s dental care. Children often perceive a parent’s anxiety which makes them more fearful. They tolerate procedures best when their parents understand what to expect and prepare them for the experience. If you have any questions about the sedation process, please ask. As you become more confident, so will your child. For your child’s safety, you must follow the instructions below.

Prior to your child’s IV Sedation appointment:

- Please notify our office of any change in your child’s dental and/or medical condition. Fever, ear infections, nasal or chest congestion, or recent head trauma could place your child at increased risk for complications. Should your child become ill just prior to the IV sedation appointment, contact our office to see if it is necessary to postpone the visit.
- Tell us about any prescribed, over-the-counter, or herbal medications your child is taking. Check with us to see if routine medications should be taken the day of the sedation. Also, report any allergies or reactions to medications that your child has experienced.
- Food and liquids must be restricted hours prior to sedation appointment. Fasting decreases the risk of vomiting and aspirating stomach contents into the lungs, a potentially life-threatening problem. We will not proceed with the sedation if you do not comply with the following requirement: YOUR CHILD IS TO HAVE NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK AFTER MIDNIGHT THE NIGHT BEFORE THE SCHEDULED APPOINTMENT.
- Dress your child in loose-fitting, comfortable clothing. This will allow us to place monitors that evaluate your child’s responses to the medications and help ensure your child’s safety. These monitors may measure effects on your child’s breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure.
- Try not to bring other children to this appointment so you can focus your attention on your child undergoing sedation.
- You must have 2 adults accompany you to the appointment. One individual should be able to observe the child’s breathing without any distractions, especially if the patient falls asleep while in the care or safety seat.

During the IV Sedation appointment:

- After the Anesthesiologist administers the pre-op sedative you will be asked to go back out to the waiting room until all dental work is completed. After we have your child comfortable in recovery you will be brought back and able to take your child home.
Children recover from the effects of sedatives different rates so be prepared to remain in the office until the doctor has determined your child stable. At discharge your child should be responsive but may be drowsy, crying or fussy. You will be given homecare instructions from Dr. Geshay for the dental work and from the Anesthesiologist. During this recovery period, it is important that you protect your child’s airway, listen to his/her breath sounds and do not allow your child to “tuck” his chin down onto his/her chest. This can constrict his trachea (like “kinking” a garden hose) and reduce the flow of air from his mouth to his lungs. So, keep his chin elevated, keep his head up and slightly back.

After the IV Sedation appointment:

Once home, your child will still be drowsy and must remain under adult supervision until fully recovered from the effects of sedation. If your child wants to sleep, position your child on his/her side with the head supported and the chin up. During this period, check your child’s breathing and airway every 3-5 minutes. If your child is snoring, reposition the head until the snoring disappears and your child breathes normally. If breathing becomes abnormal or you are unable to arouse your child, contact emergency services (911) immediately.

Do NOT plan or permit activities for your child after treatment. Allow your child to rest. Closely supervise any activity for the remainder of the day.

After treatment, the first drink should be plain water. Clear liquids can be given next followed by Gatorade, sugar-free kool-aid, ginger ale, soup, broth etc. Small drinks taken repeatedly are preferable to taking large amounts. Soft lukewarm, bland food may be taken when desired (mashed potatoes, yogurt, pudding, ice cream, popsicles, etc.)

In addition to the sedative medications, we often use local anesthetic to numb the mouth during dental treatment. The numbness usually last 2-4 hours. Make sure your child does not suck, scratch or bite his/her lips or check.

Children may be irritable after treatment. If this occurs, stay with your child; providing a calm environment. If you believe the irritability is caused by discomfort, you may give your child acetaminophen (tylenol) or ibuprofen (motrin or advil). Follow the instructions on the bottle for dosing based upon your child’s age/weight.

A slight fever (temperature to 101F) is not uncommon for 24 hours after sedation. Tylenol may be given as directed on bottle. Because dehydration may cause a slight increase in temperature, clear fluids may help correct this condition. If a higher fever develops or fever persists, call our office at 724-439-1576.

Additional instructions:

Contact Number Dr. Geshay’s Office: (724) 439-1576